

I am submitting the attached testimony in opposition to the Governor's proposed budget cuts to DDS.

My name is Sally Huck and my family and I live in Old Lyme. My husband and I have a daughter with autism and ID, and I work for a non-profit agency in eastern Connecticut that serves seniors and people under the age of 65 years old with disabilities.

I am strongly against the DDS budget cuts proposed by the Governor. Although I support fiscal responsibility, I take issue with reductions in funding to services for people with disabilities. My job as a parent is to help my daughter fulfill her dream of being gainfully employed and living with others her age with the necessary supports and supervision.

However, the proposed funding cuts target the very programs that provide jobs and housing that people with disabilities need not only to live but to be fulfilled, happy and healthy. The cuts will impact my family, the clients my agency serves, and the employees who work for these programs when their hours are cut or positions eliminated.

My husband and I work hard every day to prepare our daughter for the future. We will soon be collaborating with the school district to incorporate transition planning into her education. But these efforts will be for naught if our daughter transitions into adulthood without appropriate funding for DDS residential and employment programs.

I request that the Appropriations committee stop the cuts to DDS, restore full funding to DDS and fund the DDS waiting list.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sally Huck

March 5, 2015